

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) A method for suppressing bacterial growth in a blood fraction, comprising adding to a blood fraction a compound selected from the group consisting of L-carnitine, salts of L-carnitine, alkanoyl carnitines, salts of alkanoyl carnitines, and mixtures thereof, in an amount effective to suppress bacterial growth in said blood fraction,

wherein said blood fraction is a prestorage-leuko-reduced platelet concentrate, and wherein said method comprises suspending said prestorage-leuko-reduced platelet concentrate in a support solution which comprises said compound.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said compound is comprised in a support solution in a concentration of 0.25 to 50 mM.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said compound is comprised in a support solution in a concentration of 1 to 30 mM.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said compound is L-carnitine.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of acetyl L-carnitine, propionyl L-carnitine, butyryl L-

carnitine, isobutyryl L-carnitine, valeryl L-carnitine, and isovaleryl L-carnitine.

62. – 66. (Canceled)

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-56 were previously canceled.

Claims 62-66 are canceled herein.

Claim 57 has been amended.

The amendment to Claim 57 is supported by the specification as filed at, for example, page 4, lines 5-9, page 6, line 17 to page 7, line 3, page 7, line 20 to page 8, line 4, and the Example at page 30, line 5 to page 32, line 18.

No new matter is believed to have been presented by the amendment herein.